

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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GREG ADSLUF,

Plaintiff,

**SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT  
AND DEMAND FOR A JURY  
TRIAL**

-v-

**13-CV-2295 (LGS)**

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, NYPD Sergeant (“Sgt.”)  
JOSEPH DIAZ, NYPD Officer (“P.O.”) LISA WARING,  
NYPD P.O. RICHARD CHO, NYPD Deputy Inspector  
EDWARD WINSKI, NYPD Deputy Inspector JOHN  
D’ADAMO, NYPD Captain ANDREW LOMBARDO,  
NYPD Lieutenant MICHAEL ZIELINSKY, NYPD  
P.O. JOHN DOE 1 and 2 (the name John Doe being  
fictitious, as the true names are not presently known),  
in their individual capacities,

Defendants.  
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Plaintiff GREG ADSLUF, through his attorney Robert M. Quackenbush of Rankin &  
Taylor, PLLC, as and for his second amended complaint, does hereby state and allege:

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. This is a civil rights action brought to vindicate plaintiff’s rights under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution of the United States, through the Civil Rights Act of 1871, *as amended*, codified as 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
2. Plaintiff GREG ADSLUF’s rights were violated when officers of the NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT (“NYPD”) unconstitutionally and without any legal basis arrested and used unlawful force against him. The entire incident was captured on video and is available for viewing on YouTube. *See* July 11, 2012 – NYPD in Liberty Plaza, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nV4R9daq-tE&feature=youtu.be> (last viewed Oct. 31, 2013).

3. By reason of defendants' actions, including their unreasonable and unlawful arrest and use of force, Mr. ADSLUF was deprived of his constitutional rights.
4. Mr. ADSLUF also seeks an award of compensatory and punitive damages and attorneys' fees.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

5. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over federal claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343(a)(3-4). This action is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 for violations of the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States.
6. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a)(2) in that Mr. ADSLUF's claims arose in Lower Manhattan, within the confines of this judicial district.
7. An award of costs and attorneys' fees is authorized pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988.

### **PARTIES**

8. Plaintiff GREG ADSLUF was at all times relevant to this action a resident of the County of Kings in the State of New York. He is currently a resident of the County of Los Angeles in the State of California.
9. Defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK ("CITY") is a municipal entity created and authorized under the laws of the State of New York. It is authorized by law to maintain a police department, which acts as its agent in the area of law enforcement and for which it is ultimately responsible. The CITY assumes the risks incidental to the maintenance of a police force and the employment of police officers as said risks attach to the public consumers of the services provided by the NYPD.
10. New York City Police Department Officer Sergeant ("Sgt.") JOSEPH DIAZ, New York City Police Department Officer ("P.O.") LISA WARING, P.O. RICHARD CHO, Deputy

Inspector (“D.I.”) EDWARD WINSKI, D.I. JOHN D’ADAMO, Captain (“Capt.”) ANDREW LOMBARDO, Lieutenant (“Lt.”) MICHAEL ZIELINSKY, and P.O. JOHN DOE 1 and 2 (the name John Doe being fictitious, as the true names are not presently known) (referred to collectively as the “individual defendants”) are and were at all times relevant herein, officers, employees and agents of the NYPD.

11. The true names of defendants P.O. JOHN DOE 1 and 2 are not currently known to the plaintiff.<sup>1</sup> However, all of these defendants were employees or agents of the NYPD on July 11, 2012, the date of the incident described in the Statement of Facts below. Accordingly, these defendants are entitled to representation in this action by the New York City Law Department (“Law Department”) upon their request, pursuant to N.Y. Gen. Mun. L. § 50-k. The Law Department, then, is hereby put on notice (a) that Mr. ADSLUF intends to name these officers as defendants in an amended pleading once their true names becomes known and (b) that the Law Department should immediately begin preparing their defense(s) in this action.
12. The individual defendants are being sued in their individual capacities.
13. At all times relevant herein, the individual defendants were acting under color of state law in the course and scope of their duties and functions as agents, servants, employees and officers of the NYPD, and otherwise performed and engaged in conduct incidental to the performance of their lawful functions in the course of their duties. They were acting for and on behalf of the NYPD at all times relevant herein, with the power and authority vested in them as officers, agents and employees of the NYPD and incidental to the lawful pursuit of their duties as officers, employees and agents of the NYPD.

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<sup>1</sup> By identifying said officers as “John Doe,” plaintiff is making no representations as to the gender of these officers.

14. The individual defendants' acts hereafter complained of were carried out intentionally, recklessly, with malice, and in gross disregard of plaintiff's rights.
15. At all relevant times, the individual defendants were engaged in a joint venture, assisting each other in performing the various actions described herein and lending their physical presence and support and the authority of their offices to one another.

### **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

16. The events that give rise to this lawsuit occurred primarily on July 11, 2012, at approximately 8:45 p.m. in Liberty Plaza on Liberty Street and Broadway in Lower Manhattan.
17. At approximately the time and location above, Marsha Spencer – then 56 years old – was sitting on her lawn chair while knitting a cover for her water bottle.
18. As Ms. Spencer sat knitting on her lawn chair, NYPD supervisory officers – including but not limited to D.I. WINSKI, D.I. D'ADAMO, Capt. LOMBARDO, and Lt. ZIELINSKY – approached Ms. Spencer and ordered her to leave the park.
19. In so doing, NYPD officials were, upon information and belief, purporting to enforce a rule which prohibited the presence of lawn chairs in Liberty Plaza, a public space owned by Brookfield Properties.
20. Mr. ADSLUF attempted to help Ms. Spencer out of the park.
21. Soon thereafter, a supervisory officer grabbed Ms. Spencer and pulled her forward in an attempt to guide Ms. Spencer out of the park.
22. Due to the force and abruptness with which the officer grabbed Ms. Spencer, she panicked and sat on the ground.

23. At that time, Mr. ADSLUF picked up Ms. Spencer's chair in order to assist her in leaving the park (pictured below).



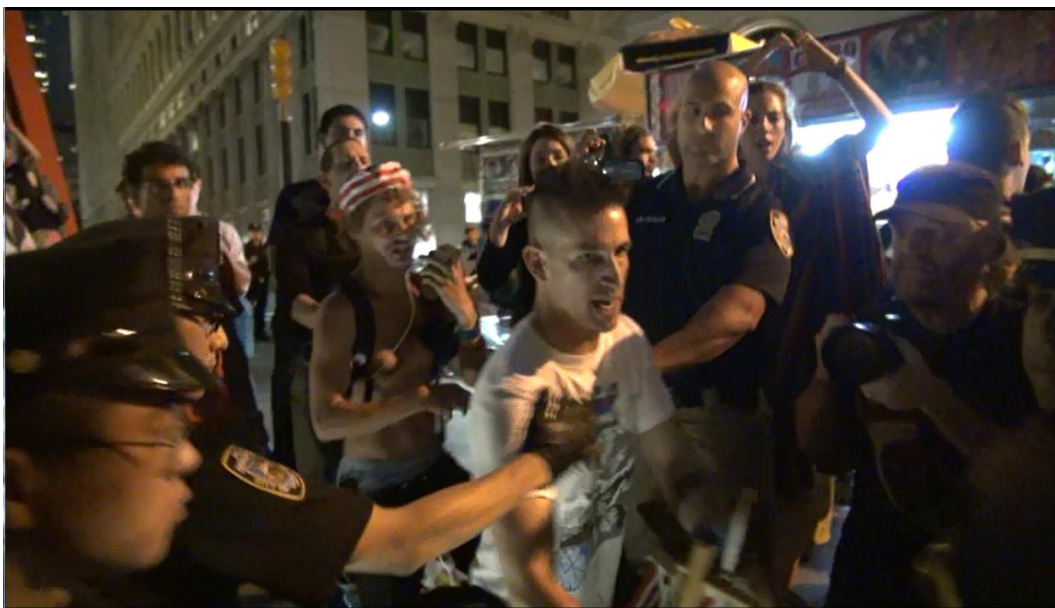
24. An officer then picked up Ms. Spencer from the ground and began to guide her out of the park.

25. While carrying Ms. Spencer's chair, Mr. ADSLUF followed immediately behind her and the officer towards the perimeter of the park.

26. As this occurred, Sgt. JOSEPH DIAZ charged at Mr. ADSLUF screaming profanity and pointing his finger in Mr. ADSLUF's face (pictured below).



27. Mr. ADSLUF was then pulled back and away from Sgt. DIAZ by at least one of the individual defendants (pictured below).



28. This resulted in Mr. ADSLUF being pushed by an individual defendant (pictured below with a video camera in his right hand while pushing Mr. ADSLUF with his left hand) into two other individual defendants and Capt. LOMBARDO, who were directly in front of him.





29. As Mr. ADSLUF was pushed into the group of officers, Capt. LOMBARDO hooked his arm around Mr. ADSLUF's neck and pulled him to the ground onto his face (the beginning of which is pictured above).
30. The individual defendants (including the supervisory officials) then piled on top of Mr. ADSLUF and/or assisted other individuals in doing so, and repeatedly drove their knees into Mr. ADSLUF's back.
31. Soon thereafter, some of the individual defendants cuffed Mr. ADSLUF and took him to the precinct as he bled from his head.
32. A video of the entire incident can be found on YouTube at:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nV4R9daq-tE&feature=youtu.be>.
33. Mr. ADSLUF was held for approximately 26 hours before being brought before the criminal court.
34. In court, Mr. ADSLUF was charged with disorderly conduct (N.Y. Pen. L. 240.20(6)) and resisting arrest (N.Y. Pen. L. 205.30).

35. These charges were based upon utter fabrications sworn to by P.O. LISA WARING. In relevant part, she swore to the truth of the following:

Deponent states that deponent observed the defendant inside the above listed location, to wit Zucotti (*sic*) Park with approximately one-hundred (100) other individuals.

Deponent further states that an elderly individual was trying to leave the park and could not leave safely due to the number of individuals in the park.

Deponent further states that deponent observed Lieutenant Michael Zielinski of the Patrol Boro Manhattan South Task Force use his bullhorn and asked said individuals inside the park to leave by stating in substance: LADIES AND GENTLEMAN (*sic*), YOU NEED TO STEP BACK SO THE LADY CAN LEAVE SAFELY. Deponent further states deponent heard Lieutenant state this approximately six (6) times.

Deponent further states that the defendant refused to leave after said warnings. Deponent further states that deponent heard Sergeant Josphe Diaz, Shield 04744 of the Patrol Boro Manhattan South Task Force state in substance to defendant: I TOLD YOU TO STEP BACK. STEP BACK.

Deponent further states the defendant refused to leave. Deponent further states that when deponent went to place the defendant under arrest, the defendant refused to turn around to be placed in handcuffs and would not allow deponent to place defendant in handcuffs, causing deponent to need assistance from numerous other officers to place the defendant in handcuffs.

36. Sgt. DIAZ wrote nearly identical, false allegations into his memobook, or daily activity log.

37. The following days after Mr. ADSLUF's arrest, he experienced severe pain from the contusions on his back and legs caused by the police officers. In addition, the following day after his arrest, he urinated blood – an occurrence which is most likely attributable to the individual defendants repeatedly driving their knees into Mr. ADSLUF's back as he lay prone on the ground.



38. On December 13, 2012, Mr. ADSLUF accepted an adjournment in contemplation of dismissal, a disposition which resulted in the dismissal of all charges against him.

**FIRST CLAIM  
DEPRIVATION OF RIGHTS  
UNDER THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION THROUGH 42 U.S.C. § 1983  
(*Against the Individual Defendants*)**

39. Mr. ADSLUF incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

40. The individual defendants, under color of state law, subjected Mr. ADSLUF to the foregoing acts and omissions, thereby depriving Mr. ADSLUF of his rights, privileges and immunities secured by the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, including without limitation deprivation of the following constitutional rights: (a) freedom from unreasonable seizure of his person, including the excessive use of force; (b) freedom from false arrest and false imprisonment; (c) freedom from the lodging of false charges against him by police officers (against P.O. WARING only); (d) freedom from having police officers fabricate evidence against him (against Sgt. DIAZ and P.O. WARING only); and (e) freedom from having police officers fail to intervene to prevent the above-described constitutional violations when they reasonably could have done so.

41. The individual defendants' deprivations of Mr. ADSLUF's constitutional rights resulted in the injuries and damages set forth above.

**SECOND CLAIM  
DEPRIVATION OF RIGHTS  
UNDER THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION THROUGH 42 U.S.C. § 1983  
(*Against The CITY*)**

42. Mr. ADSLUF incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

43. All of the acts and omissions by the individual defendants described above were carried out pursuant to overlapping policies and practices of the CITY which were in existence on July 11, 2012 and were engaged in with the full knowledge, consent, and cooperation and under the supervisory authority of the CITY and its agency, the NYPD.
44. The CITY and the NYPD, by their policy-making agents, servants and employees, authorized, sanctioned and/or ratified the individual defendants' wrongful acts; and/or failed to prevent or stop those acts; and/or allowed or encouraged those acts to continue.
45. The acts complained of were carried out by the individual defendants in their capacities as police officers and officials pursuant to customs, policies, usages, practices, procedures and rules of the CITY and the NYPD, all under the supervision of ranking officers of the NYPD, including but not limited to SUPERVISORY OFFICER ROE.
46. The aforementioned customs, practices, procedures and rules of the CITY and the NYPD include, but are not limited to, the following unconstitutional practices:
- a. Falsely swearing out criminal complaints, and/or lying and committing perjury during sworn testimony
    - i. in order to protect other officers; and/or
    - ii. in order to meet said productivity goals; and/or
  - b. Failing to supervise, train, instruct and discipline police officers and encouraging their misconduct;
  - c. Discouraging police officers from reporting the corrupt or unlawful acts of other police officers;
  - d. Retaliating against officers who report police misconduct; and
  - e. Failing to intervene to prevent the above-mentioned practices when they reasonably could have been prevented by a supervisor or other agent or employee of the NYPD.

47. The existence of aforesaid unconstitutional customs and policies may be inferred from repeated occurrences of similar wrongful conduct, as documented in the following civil rights actions filed against the CITY:

- a. Long v. City of New York, 09-CV-6099 (AKH) (S.D.N.Y.); People v. Pogan, 06416-2008 (Sup. Ct., N.Y. Co.) (officer who purposefully swore out a false complaint and used excessive force is convicted of falsifying police records and was prosecuted for recklessly using physical force; the plaintiff was engaged in expressive conduct, to wit, riding in a Critical Mass bicycle ride, when he was assaulted by the officer);
- b. Taylor-Mickens v. City of New York, 09-CV-7923 (RWS) (S.D.N.Y.) (police officers at the 24<sup>th</sup> Precinct issue four summonses to a woman in retaliation for her lodging a complaint with the Civilian Complaint Review Board at the precinct);
- c. Lin v. City of New York, 09-CV-1936 (PGG) (S.D.N.Y.) (officers arrest person lawfully photographing an arrest of a bicyclist in Times Square and swear out a criminal complaint whose facts are contradicted by video evidence; officers also arrest a bystander after refusing an unlawful order to produce identification);<sup>2</sup>
- d. Colon v. City of New York, 09-CV-0008 (E.D.N.Y.) In an Order dated November 25, 2009, which denied the CITY's motion to dismiss on Iqbal/Twombly grounds, wherein the police officers at issue were fired and prosecuted for falsifying evidence in a purported buy-and-bust operation, the Honorable District Court Judge Weinstein wrote:

Informal inquiry by the court and among the judges of this court, as well as knowledge of cases in other federal and state courts, has revealed anecdotal evidence of repeated, widespread falsification by arresting police officer of the New York City Police Department. Despite numerous inquiries by commissions and strong reported efforts by the present administration – through selection of candidates for the police force stressing academic and other qualifications, serious training to avoid constitutional violations, and strong disciplinary action within the department – there is some evidence of an attitude among officers that is sufficiently widespread to constitute a custom or policy by the city approving illegal conduct of the kind now charged.

- e. Bryant v. City of New York, 22011/2007 (Sup. Ct., Kings Co.) (jury declares that NYPD officers acted pursuant to a City policy regarding the number of arrests

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<sup>2</sup> For a description of this case and settlement, *see*, Anahad O'Connor, *City Pays \$98,000 to Critical Mass Cyclists*, N.Y. Times, March 30, 2010, *available at* <http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/03/30/city-pays-98000-to-critical-mass-cyclists/>.

officers were expected to make that violated plaintiff's constitutional rights and contributed to her arrest);<sup>3</sup>

- f. Callaghan v. City of New York, 07-CV-9611 (PKC) (S.D.N.Y.) (officers accused of falsifying evidence and retaliatory arrests of bicyclists engaged in expressive conduct, to wit, riding in Critical Mass bicycle rides after the 2004 Republican National Convention);<sup>4</sup>
- g. Williams v. City of New York, 06-CV-6601 (NGG), 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 94418 (E.D.N.Y.) (officers arrest plaintiff during a “vertical patrol” of a public housing project despite evidence that he had a legitimate reason to be on the premises);
- h. Dunlop v. City of New York, 06-CV-0433 (RJS), 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 38250 (S.D.N.Y.) (bystander arrested outside the 2004 Republican National Convention while observing arrests occurring in public; alleges that police destroyed exculpatory evidence by deleting portions of a video which contradict sworn criminal complaint);
- i. Carmody v. City of New York, 05-CV-8084 (HB), 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 83207 (S.D.N.Y.) (police officer alleges that he was terminated for cooperating with another officer’s claims of a hostile work environment);
- j. MacNamara v. City of New York, 04-CV-9216 (RJS) (JCF) (S.D.N.Y.) (evidence of perjured sworn statements systematically provided by officers to attempt to cover-up or justify unlawful mass arrests of approximately 1800 people has been and continues to be developed in the consolidated litigation arising out of the 2004 Republican National Convention);
- k. McMillan v. City of New York, 04-CV-3990 (FB) (RML) (E.D.N.Y.) (officers fabricated evidence and used excessive force against an African-American man in Kings County and initiated drug charges against him, despite an absence of any quantum of suspicion);
- l. Avent v. City of New York, 04-CV-2451 (CBA) (CLP) (E.D.N.Y.) (same);
- m. Smith v. City of New York, 04-CV-1045 (RRM) (JMA) (E.D.N.Y.) (same);
- n. Powers v. City of New York, 04-CV-2246 (NGG), 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 27704 (E.D.N.Y.) (police officer alleges unlawful retaliation by other police officers after testifying about corruption within the NYPD);

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<sup>3</sup> For a description of this case and ultimate settlement, see, Oren Yaniv, *Court rules that cops do use quotas, woman injured in 2006 arrest settles for \$75,000*, N.Y. Daily News, Feb. 19, 2011, available at [http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny\\_crime/2011/02/19/2011-02-19\\_court\\_rules\\_that\\_cops\\_do\\_use\\_quotas\\_woman\\_injured\\_in\\_2006\\_arrest\\_settles\\_for\\_750.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny_crime/2011/02/19/2011-02-19_court_rules_that_cops_do_use_quotas_woman_injured_in_2006_arrest_settles_for_750.html).

<sup>4</sup> For a description of this case and the nearly \$1 million settlement, see, Cate Doty, *Bike Riders in New York Win Settlement*, N.Y. Times, October 18, 2010, available at [http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/19/nyregion/19critical.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/19/nyregion/19critical.html?_r=1).

- o. Kunstler v. City of New York, 04-CV-1145 (RWS) (MHD) (S.D.N.Y.) (group of peaceful anti-war protestors arrested without probable cause and questioned by NYPD about their political beliefs; photographic and video surveillance of the protestors taken due to plaintiff's political beliefs);
- p. Allen v. City of New York, 03-CV-2829 (KMW) (GWG) (S.D.N.Y.) (police surround and arrest groups of persons lawfully protesting against the policies of the World Economic Forum; numerous police officers falsely swear that they gave orders to disperse; and, even if they had given such orders, the police provided no place of egress for the protestors to disperse);
- q. Dotson v. City of New York, 03-CV-2136 (RMB) (S.D.N.Y.) (officers arrest and use excessive force against a candidate for City Council for trespassing in his own residential building);
- r. Nonnemann v. City of New York, 02-CV-10131 (JSR) (AJP), 2004 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 8966 (S.D.N.Y.) (former NYPD lieutenant alleging retaliatory demotion and early retirement after reporting a fellow officer to IAB and CCRB for the officer's suspicionless, racially-motivated stop-and-frisk of a group of Hispanic youth);
- s. Richardson v. City of New York, 02-CV-3651 (JG) (CLP) (E.D.N.Y.) (officers fabricated evidence, including knowingly false sworn complaints, and used excessive force against an African-American man in Kings County and initiated drug charges against him, despite an absence of any quantum of suspicion);
- t. Barry v. New York City Police Department, 01-CV-10627 \*2 (CBM), 2004 U.S. LEXIS 5951 (S.D.N.Y.) (triable issue of fact where NYPD sergeant alleged retaliatory demotion and disciplinary charges in response to sergeant's allegations of corruption within her unit and alleged that the NYPD had an "unwritten but pervasive custom of punishing officers who speak out about police misconduct and encouraging, if not facilitating, silence among officers");
- u. Taylor v. City of New York, 01-CV-5750 (ILG) (MDG) (E.D.N.Y.) (same as Richardson, except without the excessive force; judge at the criminal trial acquitting Mr. Taylor noted, on the record, that he had "significant doubt" about the truthfulness of the officers who testified);
- v. Walton v. Safir, 99-CV-4430 (AKH), 122 F.Supp.2d 466 (S.D.N.Y. 2000) (factual findings after trial that a 12-year veteran of NYPD was terminated in retaliation for criticizing the racially-motivated policies of the NYPD's Street Crime Unit and for alleging that such policies led to the NYPD shooting death of Amadou Diallo);
- w. White-Ruiz v. City of New York, 93-CV-7233 (DLC) (MHD), 983 F.Supp. 365, 380 (S.D.N.Y. 1997) (holding that the NYPD had an "unwritten policy or practice of encouraging or at least tolerating a pattern of harassment directed at officers who exposed instances of police corruption");

- x. Ariza v. City of New York, 93-CV-5287 (CPS), 1996 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 20250 at\*14 (E.D.N.Y.) (police officer alleges retaliatory duty assignments and harassment in response to his allegations about a racially-discriminatory workplace; on motion for summary judgment, the Court held that the police officer had established proof of both a widespread usage of a policy to retaliate against police officers who expose police misconduct and a failure to train in the police department);
- y. Sorluccho v. New York City Police Department, 89-CV-7225 (CCH), 888 F.2d 4 (2d Cir. 1989) (former officer entitled to trial on issue of whether she was re-assigned and then terminated after reporting that a fellow officer had raped her); and

Kaufman v. City of New York, 87-CV-4492 (RO), 1992 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 14049 (S.D.N.Y.) (bystander arrested for observing an unlawful arrest in public, requesting the officer's badge number, and telling the officer that he planned to file a report about the arrest).

48. The existence of the aforesaid unconstitutional customs and practices, **specifically with regard to the failure to supervise, train, instruct and discipline police officers and encouraging their misconduct**, are further evidenced, inter alia, by the following:

- a. The Report of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Police Corruption and the Anti-Corruption Procedures of the Police Department ("Mollen Commission Report"), dated July 7, 1994, states:

In the face of this problem [of corruption], the [NYPD] allowed its systems for fighting corruption virtually to collapse. It has become more concerned about the bad publicity that corruption disclosures generate than the devastating consequences of corruption itself. As a result, its corruption control minimized, ignored and at times concealed corruption rather than root it out. Such an institutional reluctance to uncover corruption is not surprising. No institution wants its reputations tainted – especially a Department that needs the public's confidence and partnership to be effective. A weak and poorly resources anti-corruption apparatus minimizes the likelihood of such taint, embarrassment and potential harm to careers. Thus there is a strong institutional incentive to allow corruption efforts to fray and lose priority – which is exactly what the Commission uncovered. This reluctance manifested itself in every component of the Department's corruption controls from command accountability and supervision, to investigations, police culture, training and recruitment. For at least the past decade, the system designed to protect the Department from corruption minimized the likelihood of uncovering it.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Mollen Commission Report, pp. 2-3, *available at* [http://www.parc.info/client\\_files/Special%20Reports/](http://www.parc.info/client_files/Special%20Reports/)



- b. Accordingly, in 1990, the Office of the Special Prosecutor, which investigated charges of police corruption, was abolished.
- c. In response to the Honorable Judge Weinstein's ruling of November 25, 2009 in Colon v. City of New York, 09-CV-00008 (E.D.N.Y.), in which he noted a "widespread... custom or policy by the city approving illegal conduct" such as lying under oath and false swearing, NYPD Commissioner Raymond Kelly acknowledged, "When it happens, it's not for personal gain. It's more for convenience."<sup>6</sup>
- d. Regarding the CITY's tacit condonement and failure to supervise, discipline or provide remedial training when officers engage in excessive force, the Civilian Complaint Review Board is a CITY agency, allegedly independent of the NYPD, that is responsible for investigating and issuing findings on complaints of police abuse and misconduct.<sup>7</sup> When it does, however, Police Commissioner Kelly controls whether the NYPD pursues the matter and he alone has the authority to impose discipline on the subject officer(s). Since 2005, during Kelly's tenure, only one-quarter of officers whom the CCRB found engaged in misconduct received punishment more severe than verbal "instructions." Moreover, the number of CCRB-substantiated cases that the NYPD has simply dropped (i.e., closed without action or discipline) has spiked from less than 4% each year between 2002 and 2006, to 35% in 2007, and approximately 30% in 2008. Alarming, the NYPD has refused to prosecute 40% of the cases sent to it by the CCRB in 2009.<sup>8</sup> As a result, the percentage of cases where the CCRB found misconduct but where the subject officers were given only verbal instructions or the matter was simply dropped by the NYPD rose to 66% in 2007. Substantiated complaints of excessive force against civilians accounted for more than 10% of the cases that the NYPD dropped in 2007 and account for more than 25% of cases dropped in 2008.<sup>9</sup>

49. The existence of the aforesaid unconstitutional customs and practices, **specifically with regard to the practice or custom of officers lying under oath, falsely swearing out**

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4%20-%20Mollen%20Commission%20-%20NYPD.pdf.

<sup>6</sup> Oren Yaniv and John Marzulli, *Kelly Shrugs Off Judge Who Slammed Cops*, New York Daily News, December 2, 2009, available at [http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny\\_crime/2009/12/02/2009-12-02\\_kelly\\_shrugs\\_off\\_judge\\_who\\_rips\\_lying\\_cops.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny_crime/2009/12/02/2009-12-02_kelly_shrugs_off_judge_who_rips_lying_cops.html).

<sup>7</sup> In 2006, out of more than 10,000 allegations that were fully investigated, the CCRB substantiated only 594 (about 6%). In 2007, out of more than 11,000 allegations that were fully investigated, the CCRB substantiated only 507 (about 5%). See, CCRB Jan.-Dec. 2007 Status Report at p. 19, available at [http://www.nyc.gov/html/ccrb/pdf/ccrbann2007\\_A.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/ccrb/pdf/ccrbann2007_A.pdf). Upon information and belief, the low rate of substantiated complaints is due in part to the above-noted de facto policy and/or well-settled and widespread custom and practice in the NYPD whereby officers refuse to report other officers' misconduct or tell false and/or incomplete stories, inter alia, in sworn testimony and statements given to the CCRB, to cover-up civil rights violations perpetrated by themselves or fellow officers, supervisors and/or subordinates.

<sup>8</sup> Christine Hauser, *Few Results for Reports of Police Misconduct*, New York Times, October 5, 2009, at A19.

<sup>9</sup> Daily News, *Editorial: City Leaders Must Get Serious About Policing the Police*, August 20, 2008.

**criminal complaints, or otherwise falsifying or fabricating evidence,** are further evidenced, inter alia, by the following:

- a. The Mollen Commission concluded that police perjury and falsification of official records is probably the most common form of police corruption facing the criminal justice system. It concluded:

Regardless of the motives behind police falsifications, what is particularly troublesome about this practice is that it is widely tolerated by corrupt and honest officers alike, as well as their supervisors. Corrupt and honest officers told us that their supervisors knew or should have known about falsified versions of searches and arrests and never questioned them.<sup>10</sup>

[...]

What breeds this tolerance is a deep-rooted perception among many officers of all ranks within the Department that nothing is really wrong with compromising facts to fight crime in the real world. Simply put, despite the devastating consequences of police falsifications, there is a persistent belief among many officers that it is necessary and justifies, even if unlawful. As one dedicated officer put it, police officers often view falsification as, to use his words, “doing God’s work” – doing whatever it takes to get a suspected criminal off the streets. This attitude is so entrenched, especially in high-crime precincts, that when investigators confronted one recently arrested officer with evidence of perjury, he asked in disbelief, “What’s wrong with that? They’re guilty.”<sup>11</sup>

- b. In June of 2011, in the case in New York County Supreme Court entitled People v. William Eiseman (Ind. No. 2999-2010), NYPD Sergeant William Eiseman pled guilty to perjury and falsifying police records, “admit[ing] to faking a marijuana case against one man and cocaine-related charges against another – and training young [officers] to falsify paperwork to sidestep legal safeguards.” Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan commented that Sgt. Eiseman’s admissions “paint a picture of a police officer who has challenged and undermined the integrity of the entire system we have here.”<sup>12</sup>
- c. In late 2009, a former NYPD officer in the Bronx, Pedro Corniel, was charged with perjury for claiming to have caught a burglar “red-handed,” when, in fact, two other

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<sup>10</sup> Mollen Commission Report, p. 36.

<sup>11</sup> Mollen Commission Report, pp. 40-41.

<sup>12</sup> Melissa Grace, *NYPD Sgt. William Eiseman pleads guilty to lying under oath in plea deal*, N.Y. Daily News, June 27, 2011, available at [http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny\\_crime/2011/06/27/2011-06-27\\_nypd\\_sgt\\_william\\_eiseman\\_pleads\\_guilty\\_to\\_lying\\_under\\_oath\\_in\\_plea\\_deal.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny_crime/2011/06/27/2011-06-27_nypd_sgt_william_eiseman_pleads_guilty_to_lying_under_oath_in_plea_deal.html).

officers had made the arrest and handed the arrest off to Mr. Corniel. The suspect was released.<sup>13</sup> Moreover,

Prosecutors and NYPD Internal Affairs probers have identified as many as two dozen cases in the past year in which cops allegedly made false statements involving routine arrests when the truth would have served them just as well.

That's a significant increase over previous years, sources said. "In the past, we'd find this happening once or twice a year, and now there are a bunch of them," said one law-enforcement official.

What has the authorities particularly troubled is that officers historically have lied to cover up more serious corruption, such as the cadre of Brooklyn narcotics cops caught last year stealing drugs from dealers and masking their thievery by filing false reports about what they had seized.

But internal probers are now finding that officers appear willing to take insidious shortcuts and lie on arrest reports when they are processing even routine collars, such as grand larceny, burglaries and robberies, sources told The Post.

Their reasons could range from trying to cut down on paperwork to being lazy when filling out arrest and incident reports.<sup>14</sup>

- d. In 2007, former NYPD Officer Dennis Kim admitted to accepting money and sexual favors from the proprietor of a brothel in Queens County in exchange for protecting that brothel. Mr. Kim was convicted of those offenses. The 109<sup>th</sup> Precinct of the NYPD, which used to be Mr. Kim's command, is also under investigation by the United States Attorney's Office for "plant[ing] drugs on suspects and steal[ing] cash during gambling raids." The 109<sup>th</sup> Precinct is believed to be involved in a practice known as "flaking" wherein police officers plant drugs on suspects in order to bring legitimacy to an arrest. According to Assistant United States Attorney Monica Ryan, members of the 109<sup>th</sup> Precinct "maintained a small stash of drugs in an Altoids tin for this purpose."<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Murray Weiss, *NYPD in a Liar Storm*, N.Y. Post, Oct. 26, 2009, available at [http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/nypd\\_in\\_liar\\_storm\\_qazMBEm3UNJVogv4Ndeqcl](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/nypd_in_liar_storm_qazMBEm3UNJVogv4Ndeqcl).

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> John Marzulli, *Claims of Corruption at Queens Precinct Put Crooked Cop's Sentencing on Hold*, New York Daily News, June 20, 2008, available at [http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny\\_crime/2008/06/20/2008-06-20\\_claims\\_of\\_corruption\\_at\\_queens\\_precinct.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny_crime/2008/06/20/2008-06-20_claims_of_corruption_at_queens_precinct.html).

- e. In December of 2009, two (2) officers from the 81<sup>st</sup> Precinct in Brooklyn arrested and falsely swore out charges against an undercover officer from the Internal Affairs Bureau. As explained in an article in the New York Post:

The officers were snared in a sting by Internal Affairs in December when they were told to keep an eye out for people selling untaxed cigarettes in their precinct.

Some time later, they saw a man hanging out on a corner in the neighborhood and found that he was carrying packs of knock-off smokes.

[Sgt. Raymond] Stukes, 45, and [Officer Hector] Tirado, 30, cuffed him, but then claimed that they had seen him selling the bogus butts to two people, according to sources.

Little did the hapless cops know that the man in their custody was an undercover corruption investigator and that the whole incident was caught on video.

To complete the ruse, the undercover cop was processed at the station house so as to not tip off Stukes and Tirado about the sting...

[P]olice sources said [this action] stem[s] from precinct commanders caving to the pressure of top brass to make themselves look better.

“There’s pressure on the cops from the bosses and they’re getting pressured from headquarters,” a police source told The Post.<sup>16</sup>

The officers were indicted for felony perjury, filing a false report and filing a false instrument.<sup>17</sup>

- f. In early 2010, the CITY settled a civil rights lawsuit wherein one Officer Sean Spencer<sup>18</sup> falsely arrested and accused a 41-year old grandmother of prostitution, promising to pay the woman \$35,000. In court documents, Caroline Chen, the attorney representing the CITY in the case, admitted: “Ms. Spencer falsely reported to the assistant district attorney that he saw [the plaintiff] beckon to three male

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<sup>16</sup> Larry Celona and Tim Perone, *Cops Sting Cops*, N.Y. Post, July 30, 2010, available at [http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/brooklyn/cops\\_sting\\_cops\\_lyltuTeLdhKWtruJZYsdL](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/brooklyn/cops_sting_cops_lyltuTeLdhKWtruJZYsdL).

<sup>17</sup> John Marzulli, *Brooklyn cops charged with barding into sting operation, arresting a fellow officer on bogus charges*, N.Y. Daily News, July 30, 2010, available at [http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/2010/07/30/2010-07-30\\_brooklyn\\_cops\\_charged\\_with\\_barging\\_into\\_sting\\_operation\\_arresting\\_a\\_fellow\\_offic.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2010/07/30/2010-07-30_brooklyn_cops_charged_with_barging_into_sting_operation_arresting_a_fellow_offic.html).

<sup>18</sup> In sum, the CITY has paid out \$80,000 to settle four (4) federal lawsuits against Officer Sean Spencer. John Marzulli, *City shells out \$35G to grandmother, Monica Gonzalez, busted as hooker*, New York Daily News, January 7, 2010, available at [http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/2010/01/08/2010-01-08\\_city\\_shells\\_out\\_35g\\_to\\_granny\\_busted\\_as\\_hooker.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2010/01/08/2010-01-08_city_shells_out_35g_to_granny_busted_as_hooker.html).

passersby and that he was aware that plaintiff was previously arrested for [prostitution] when the plaintiff had never been arrested for this offense.”<sup>19</sup>

- g. Separate grand jury investigations into drug-related police corruption in the Bronx and Manhattan revealed that more than a dozen officers had been breaking into drug dealers’ apartments, stealing and then selling their drugs and perjuring themselves by filing false arrest reports. District attorneys and their assistants interviewed during a four-month investigation by New York Newsday said they believe those two grand jury investigations - in the 46<sup>th</sup> Precinct in the University Heights section of the Bronx and the 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct - are not isolated instances. They say the investigations reflect a larger, broader problem within the NYPD that its top officials seem unable or unwilling to acknowledge.<sup>20</sup>

50. The existence of the aforesaid unconstitutional customs and practices, **specifically with regard to the practice or custom of discouraging police officers from reporting the corrupt or unlawful practices of other police officers and of retaliating against officers who report misconduct**, are further evidenced, inter alia, by the following:

- a. Former New York County District Attorney Robert Morgenthau has been quoted as acknowledging that, in the NYPD, there is a “code of silence,” or a “code of protection” that exists among officers and that is followed carefully;
- b. In 1985, former NYPD Commissioner Benjamin Ward, testifying before a State Senate Committee, acknowledged the existence of the “code of silence” in the NYPD;
- c. Former NYPD Commissioner Robert Daly wrote in 1991 that the “blue wall of solidarity with its macho mores and prejudices, its cover-ups and silence, is reinforced every day in every way.”

51. The existence of the above-described unlawful de facto policies and/or well-settled and widespread customs and practices is known to, encouraged and/or condoned by supervisory and policy-making officer and officials of the NYPD and the CITY, including without limitation Commissioner Kelly.

52. The actions of the individual defendants resulted from and were taken pursuant to the above-mentioned de facto policies and/or well-settled and widespread customs and practices of the

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<sup>19</sup> *Id.*

<sup>20</sup> David Kocieniewski and Leonard Levitt, *When the Finest Go Bad: DAs, others say department overlooks corruption*, New York Newsday, November 18, 1991, at 6.

CITY, which are implemented by members of the NYPD, of engaging in systematic and ubiquitous perjury, both oral and written, to cover-up federal law violations committed against civilians by either themselves or their fellow officers, supervisors and/or subordinates. They do so with the knowledge and approval of their supervisors, commanders and Commissioner Kelly who all: (i) tacitly accept and encourage a code of silence wherein police officers refuse to report other officers' misconduct or tell false and/or incomplete stories, inter alia, in sworn testimony, official reports, in statements to the CCRB and the Internal Affairs Bureau ("IAB"), and in public statements designed to cover for and/or falsely exonerate accused police officers; and (ii) encourage and, in the absence of video evidence blatantly exposing the officers' perjury, fail to discipline officers for "testilying" and/or fabricating false evidence to initiate and continue the malicious prosecution of civilians in order to cover-up civil rights violations perpetrated by themselves or fellow officers, supervisors and/or subordinates against those civilians.

53. All of the foregoing acts by defendants deprived Mr. ADSLUF of federally protected rights.

54. The CITY knew or should have known that the acts alleged herein would deprive Mr. ADSLUF of his rights under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments.

55. The CITY is directly liable and responsible for the acts of the individual defendants because it repeatedly and knowingly failed to properly supervise, train, instruct and discipline them and because it repeatedly and knowingly failed to enforce the rules and regulation of the CITY and NYPD, and to require compliance with the Constitution and laws of the United States.

56. Despite knowledge of such unlawful de facto policies, practices and/or customs, these supervisory and policy-making officers and officials of the NYPD and the CITY, including



Commissioner Kelly, have not taken steps to terminate these policies, practices and/or customs, do not discipline individuals who engage in such policies, practices and/or customs, or otherwise properly train police officers with regard to the constitutional and statutory limits on the exercise of their authority, and instead sanction and ratify these policies, practices and/or customs through their active encouragement of, deliberate indifference to and/or reckless disregard of the effect of said policies, practices and/or customs upon the constitutional rights of persons in the City of New York.

57. The aforementioned CITY policies, practices and/or customs of failing to supervise, train, instruct and discipline police officers and encouraging their misconduct are evidenced by the police misconduct detailed herein. Specifically, pursuant to the aforementioned CITY policies, practices and/or customs, the individual defendants felt empowered to arrest Mr. ADSLUF without probable cause and then fabricate and swear to a false story to cover up their blatant violations of his constitutional rights. Pursuant to the aforementioned CITY policies, practices and/or customs, defendants failed to intervene in or report other defendants' violation of Mr. ADSLUF's rights or subsequent perjury by P.O. WARING.

58. Mr. ADSLUF's injuries were a direct and proximate result of the CITY and the NYPD's wrongful de facto policies and/or well-settled and widespread customs and practices and of the knowing and repeated failure of the CITY and the NYPD to properly supervise, train and discipline their police officers.

59. Defendants, collectively and individually, while acting under color of state law, acquiesced in a pattern of unconstitutional conduct by subordinate police officers and were directly responsible for the violation of Mr. ADSLUF's constitutional rights.

**JURY DEMAND**

60. Mr. ADSLUF demands a trial by jury in this action on each and every one of his damage claims.

**WHEREFORE**, Mr. ADSLUF demands judgment against the defendants individually and jointly and prays for relief as follows:

- a. That he be compensated for violation of his constitutional rights, pain, suffering, mental anguish and humiliation; and
- b. That he be awarded punitive damages against the individual defendants; and
- c. That he be compensated for attorneys' fees and the costs and disbursements of this action; and
- d. For such other further and different relief as to the Court may seem just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York  
October 31, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

By:

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Robert M. Quackenbush  
Rankin & Taylor, PLLC  
*Attorneys for the Plaintiff*  
11 Park Place, Suite 914  
New York, New York 10007  
t: 212-226-4507